(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the policy, priority is given to candidates from the State for recruitment in Groups C and D posts.

(d) Officers (Gp.A&B). - 30

Supervisors} _ 197

(Groups C&D)

Workmen} _ 798

Export of ALH Dhruv

35. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that ALH Dhruv is being exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to market this product to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) HAL has supplied three Dhruv helicopters to foreign countries. Of these three helicopters, one is on lease.

(c) For marketing purposes, the Dhruv helicopter is demonstrated at prominent Air Shows abroad. Proposals for export are followed up with potential customers.

Reconstruction of Century Old Culvert in Secunderabad

36. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2112 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether reconstruction of century old culvert at Laxminagar, Picket, Secunderabad Cantonment is pending for the past three years for lack of architectural design;

(b) if not, the reasons for keeping this work pending for three years;

(c) whether Government would assure of commencing this work on **a** war-footing at least at this stage; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Cantonment Board Secunderabad have approved the estimates for reconstruction of the road culvert at Wellington Road near Laxminagar, Picket amounting to Rs. 9,75,000 00 vide their Resolution No: 17(5), dated 29.12.2003. Instructions have been issued to expedite the work.

Private participation in defence production

37. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Letters of Intent issued to private manufacturing companies to produce Defence Products;

(b) total FDI in Defence sector since May, 2001, when it was opened for private participation; and

(c) the details of areas that are coered for private people to manufacture the Defence items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) 23 Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences have so far been issued to private companies for manufacturing various types of defence equipment.

(b) NIL

(c) The defence industry sector is open up to 100% for Indian private sector participation subject to licensing.

Participation of private sector in defence production

38. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are taken to increase private sector participation in defence production;